

MINUTES
Wicomico County Board of Elections
345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804
Wednesday, June 17, 2020

ATTENDEES: Brad Bellacicco, Board President, Republican Member, present in office
Catherine Keim, Republican Member, via phone
Sharon Morris, Democratic Member, present in office
Katrina Purnell, Board Secretary, Democratic Member, present in office
Peter Golba, Board Attorney, via phone
Anthony Gutierrez, Election Director, via phone
Dionne Church, Deputy Director, present in office

ABSENT: Joseph Collins, Republican Member (excused)

GUESTS: Mary T. (Teri) Denton, via phone

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Public notice was given and the agenda was posted at the Board of Elections office the week prior to the meeting. Additionally, a special public notice that, in compliance with the Governor's Order to prevent of spreading the COVID-19 virus, and in compliance with a directive from the State Board of Elections office, the board would not meet in-person but the public would have a way to call-in and listen to the meeting if they would like.

Brad Bellacicco, Board President, called the meeting to order, conducting a roll call of the board members, and declared that there was a quorum present. Anthony Gutierrez requested an addition to the agenda, a convening of the Board of Canvassers, under New Business.

Brad Bellacicco voluntarily led the Pledge of Allegiance and The Lord's Prayer.

Brad Bellacicco asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2020 meeting of the Board of Elections. Katrina Purnell made a motion to approve the May 20 minutes with one correction; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously.

Brad Bellacicco asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2020 Primary Vote by Mail Canvass and the 2020 Primary Provisional Canvass. Sharon Morris made a motion to approve these minutes, with two corrections; seconded by Katrina Purnell, passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (See Attached Copy)

Anthony Gutierrez, Election Director, referred the Board to the items listed on his Director's Report, and stated that Mary T. (Teri) Denton, a Wicomico County Election Judge, was in the meeting via telephone, and referred to the e-mail, dated May 23, 2020, regarding the 2020 Primary Election Judge compensation. The Board had no questions for Ms. Denton or discussion on this subject at this time. Brad Bellacicco tabled the issue until the Board goes into closed session, at which time it will be taken into consideration.

Brad Bellacicco acknowledged the monthly financial update. There was no discussion regarding this at this time.

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OLD BUSINESS:

The Election Director has compiled a response to Joseph Collins' request for information on what other states do regarding signature verification. He will e-mail this to the Board.

There was discussion regarding the 2020 Primary Election.

A historic number of ballots were canvassed, with over 17,600 accepted in the Vote by Mail canvass.

Katrina Purnell suggested that in the future, there should be more press releases and PSA's which highlight information about the need for ballots to be postmarked by a certain date, or deposited in drop box by a certain date and time, as well as the in-person voting date and time. She also suggested that the Post Office consider additional staffing on election day until at least 8:00 p.m. Sharon Morris asked if there could be something printed on the actual ballots. A motion was made by Katrina Purnell to e-mail SBE with these concerns regarding the 2020 Primary process; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the canvassing process, and the number of canvass workers needed. The Board also commended Jocelyn Montgomery, Absentee Voting Coordinator, for her handling of the process.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board of Elections recessed at 9:22 a.m. and convened at 9:23 a.m. as the Board of Canvassers in order to vote on 11 ballots that have been received since the Vote by Mail Canvass ended.

11 Vote by Mail ballots were received late, with postmarks after June 2, 2020. Katrina Purnell made a motion to reject these 11 ballots; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Sharon Morris to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Canvassers at 9:27 a.m. and reconvene the meeting of the Board of Elections; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS:

None.

MEMBERS TIME:

None.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Peter Golba, referring to the lawsuit for a pending charter amendment, stated that the Wicomico Board of Elections has provided information required by the State.

ADJOURNMENT:

Brad Bellacicco announced that the next meeting will be Wednesday July 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

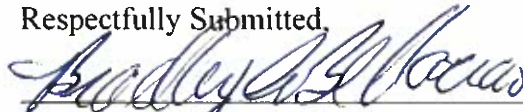

Sharon Morris made a motion to adjourn and go into closed session; seconded by Katrina Purnell, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

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CLOSED SESSION:

The Board went into closed session at 9:32 a.m. The closed session ended at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

	7/16/2020
Brad Bellacicco, Board President	Date
	7/16/20
Bill Blockston, Recorder	Date

Revised 7/15/2020